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EASTERN

F.O.

1947

PALESTINE

Fine No. 9594

CLOSED UNTIL

61963

1978

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| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | Reference:- FO 371 / 61963



9594

Registry Number

31 E9594/9594/88

1947

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Evans, Beirut 743 No.

Dated

13.10.47

Received

in Registry \ 15.10.47.

Ban on Lebanese newspapers entering Palestine Refers to Jerusalem telegram No.1906 to Colonial Office.

Fears that decision to prohibit import of Lebanese newspapers into Palestine will have adverse effect on situation. Suggests that I adverse effect on situation. Suggests that before decision is taken attempts should be made to induce Lebanese Government to moderate their tone.

Repeated to Jerusalem, Cairo, B.M.E.O. and Damascus.

Last Paper.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61963

(Action completed.)

Next Paper

E 9677

(Minutes.)

678

RECORD OFFICE, LO

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not pessed on 9

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE. 15 OCT

Mr. Evans.

No. 743.

13th October 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem, Cairo, British Hiddle East Office, and Saving Damascus.

D. 7.08 p.m. 13th October 1947.

R. 8.54 p.m. 13th October 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem, Cairo, British Hiddle East Office,

SECRET.

Jerusalem telegram No. 1906 to Secretary of State for the Colonies; ban on Lebanese newspapers entering Palestine.

I fear a decision to prohibit import of Lebanese newspapers into Palestine might well revive doubts as to sincerity
of British policy and go far to undo the good work done by
the Colonial Secretary's statement. It seems likely that
it will even increase violence of already inflammatory
naterial and almost certainly give it an anti-British
character. It is unfortunately true that the Lebanese
press has always been irresponsible but now at least it is
not wholly anti-British. As seen from here therefore
present would appear to be an inopportune moment for taking
drastic action against Lebanese newspapers. In fact
material they are now publishing is only in keeping with
Arab League decisions which have already received widest
publicity and which [grp. undec.] bound to give use to speculaters of the wildest sert.

2. I fully realise they [?grp. omtd] doing everything possible [grp. undec.] inflaming public opinion in Palestine. I submit however that before a decision is reached to ban Lebanese newspapers an attempt should be made here through the Information Office and through agency of Lebanese Government to moderate their tone.

Cairo please pass to British Liddle East Office as my telegram No. 188.



AMENDMENT SLIP OCT 1047

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

Telegram No. 743 of 13th October from Beirut to Foreign Office.

Paragraph 1, penultimate and last lines should read: "and which seem bound to give rise to speculation of the wildest sort".

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

16th October, 1947.

QQQ

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

95-94 19594 38

Mr.

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 11th October, 1947. R. 11th " 21.35 hrs.

No.1906 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to Cairo No.124 (please pass copy to
B.M.K.O. as my telegram No.171).

" Beirut, No.(?1389)

" Damascus, No. 1388, all secret.

A number of Arab newspapers published in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt and circulating in Palestine contained inflammatory material whose circulation in this country at this time, in particular, is undesirable.

- 2. Subject to your seeing no objection, I propose to authorise the Censor to prohibit their importation under Regulation 88 of Defence (Emergency) Regulations.
 - 3. The following is a list of publications:
 - A. Lebahese Daily papers

Al-Amal, Al-Diyar, Al-(?#Syf al), Ash-Shark, Al-Gaman, Belrut, Al-Hayat, Al-Hahar, Al-Youm.

B. Syrian papers.

Al-Ayyam, Alef Be, Al-Barada, Al-Kabes, Al-Nasir.

C. Egyptian daily papers.

Al-Masri, Sout Al-Vaman, Al-Kutlah, Al Balagh.

D. Egyptian weekly papers.

Akhbar Al-Youm, (m corrupt group) Al-Yusef, Musamarat Alejaib, Rabitat, Ash-Shabab Al Wardi.

I request a very early reply.

m Correction being obtained.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Beith.

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9677

PALESTINE

TELEGRAM FROM

W Bowker facio

2027. 16,00F 14 -

Ban on Circle Heavy regard entering Polatist. Regards that before final diances in to her consideration will be given takely repercusions of such action in Egypt.

Last Paper.

References.

(How disposed of.)

8) Mr. Mathieson, P.O.

(Action completed.) Next Paper.

9678

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

(Minutes.)

now please see £9678

FROM CLIRO TO FOREIGH OFFICE

Mr. Bowker No. 2027

16th October, 1947

R. 8. 24 p.m. 16th October, 1947

R. 8. 24 p.m. 16th October, 1947 Repeated to Jerusalem, Danascus and Beirut. E 9677

SECRET

Jerusalem telegram No. [grp.undec.]247to gereign Office: Ban of Arab newspapers.

I can well believe continued circulation in Palestine of periodicals named may aggravate existing tension and I fully appreciate the reasons why the High Commissioner wishes to ban them. But before a final decision is taken I hope that consideration will be given to likely repercussions of such action in Egypt.

- 2. Declaration of banning of so many Egyptian papers is certain to be hotly resented by the Egyptian press as a whole regardless of party in spite of the fact that dailies mentioned are all on the opposition side. We must expect it to be condemned as a violation of freedom of the press and as evidence that Palestinian Gevernment is either betraying pro-Jewish sympathies or acting under Jewish pressure. Such a development would be particularly unfortunate at a moment when we are trying on your instructions to persuade the Egyptians of fairness of our intentions about Palestine.
- The High Commissioner's telegram does not state probable duration of the ban or the nature of material to which exception has been taken. Effect would not be so bad if the ban was for say one week only and accompanied by a warning that if papers concerned continue to incite disorder they would receive more severe treatment. It would also help us to meet criticism here if we could state that subversive Jewish papers have also recently been banned. I should be grateful for information on this point from the High Commissioner.

Beirut please pass to Damascus as my telegram He. 139.

888

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

(Action completed.)

(Index.

Next Paper.

9679

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Dundas. No. 447.

D. 6.22. p.m. 15th October 1947.

15th October 1947.

R. 7.40. p.m. 15th October 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem,
Cairo,
B.M.E.O.
Beirut, Saving.

E 9678

SECRET

Jerusalem telegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies 1906.

Arguments contained in first paragraph of Beirut telegram No. 743 apply with equal force to Syrian press and public.

- 2. If it is nevertheless decided to impose a ban on any Syrian newspapers I venture to suggest that a teken ban of up to three days would give us an opportunity of drawing attention to the dangers of publishing material which may inflame public opinion in Palestine. In the last two or three days in fact there has been improvement in the tone of some Damascus newspapers.
- Jerusalem telegram under reference include two Alef Ba and Al Ayyam whose attitude towards Britain is considerably more moderate than other Syrian papers such as Friday's Manar and Barada whom we consider most inflammatory.

OCT VI

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1947 **FROM** betonial Office No. Dated Received 75 978/47

PALESTINE

Bon On Orah Newspapers entening Pollsting Refer Palester (1 1906 169,74/9,794/31) Leing proposed by Palester Gourt & probabilit reasposed inportation of a necesser of arab reasposed published - the Kolanon , Lyria and Sayet. Color of 40. Your any odyector & such a step heary taken.

Last Paper

9678

References E9678/9594/11

(Print)

(How disposed of)

DAT. W.O.E. Whatherail

(Minutes.)

Now Mane me £9675'

9677 and 9594 27/10

Cairo, Beirut and Damascus all deprecate the ban on certain Arab publications which the High Commissioner has proposed. H.M. Chargés d'Affaires at Cairo and Damascus have suggested that a ban might be acceptable if it were limited to a short period and used as a warning and Mr. Bowker has added that it would help to meet criticism if subsersive Jewish papers could also be banned.

The Colonial office are on our side in this matter and are very ready, I understand, to request the high Commissioner to desist altogether from his intention. They had wanted a written reply from us last night, but, as it was impossible to arrange this, Mr. Mathieson, Colonial Office, is sending an interim telegram to the High Commissioner asking him to hold his hand pending instructions.

In the circumstances I think we should ask the Colonial Office to come down against any ban whatsoever since the compromise suggestions made are likely to complicate the issue.

Draft letter submitted.

Ms. Buns

(J. G. S. Beith) 18th October, 1947.

Next Paper

(Index)

9955

(Action

completed)

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17

In Prince 1959 20/10.

We may hear more from

the Co about this

Bort. 24

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| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | Reference:- FO 371 / 61963

..



My Reference 5 9 Y8/47

Your Reference

Church House,.

Great Smith Street,

London, S.W. 1.

October 16, 1947.

E 9679

17 OCT

Thy clear Beith,

I had our Distribution Section send you a copy of Palestine telegram No. 1906 Secret, about the proposal of the Palestine Government to authorize the Censor to prohibit the importation of a number of Arab newspapers published in the Lebanon, Syria and Egypt which at the moment are carrying material calculated to inflame communal passions in Palestine. We shall be glad to know urgently if you see any objection to such a step being taken. You will see that the telegram has been repeated to Cairo. Beirut and Damascus, who will no doubt be replying separately and send a copy of their reply to you. I suggest, if you see no objection, that we telegraph to Palestine saying that subject to confirmation from the Foreign Office posts concerned that no objection is seen, you would not oppose the action contemplated.

> Jours ever, Lime Malkerin

> > (W.A.C. Mathieson)

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

eference:-

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 11th October, 1947.
R. 11th " 21.35 hrs.

No.1906 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to Cairo No.124 (please pass copy to

B.M.E.O. as my telegram No.171)
"Beirut, No.(91389)

"Damascus, No. 1388, all secret.

A number of Arab newspapers published in Lebenon. Syria and Egypt and circulating in Palestine contained inflammatory material whose circulation in this country at this time, in particular, is undesirable.

- 2. Subject to your seeing no objection, I propose to authorise the Censor to prohibit their importation under Regulation 88 of Defence (Emergency) Regulations.
 - 3. The following is a list of publications:
 - A. Lebahese Daily papers.

Al-Amal, Al-Diyar, Al-(?MSyf al), Ash-Shark, Al-Caman, Reirut, Al-Hayat, Al-Nahar, Al-Youm.

B. Syrian papers.

Al-Ayyam, Alef Ba, Al-Berede, Al-Kabas, Al-Nasira

C. Rayptian daily papers.

Al-Masri, Sout Al-Umman, Al-Kutlah, Al Balagh.

61963

D. Egyptian weekly papers.

Akhbar Al-Youm, (* corrupt group) Al-Yusef, Musamarat Al-Jaib, Rabitat, Ash-Shebab Al Wardi.

I request a very early reply.

m Correction being obtained.

Registry No.E 9679/9594/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Droft.

Mr., Matheson, Colonial Office.

from Mr. Beith

Jeof x

16

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

22 October, 1947.

IMMEDIATE

Dear Mathiel Son,

Thank you for your letter of 16th

October about the proposal of the Palestine

Government to authorise censor to prohibit

the importation of a number of Arab news
papers published in the Lebanon, Syria

and Egypt.

The Jerusalem telegram does not give a clear indication of how harmful are the effects in Palestine of the circulation of these newspapers. You will, however, now have seen the observations of our representatives in Cairo, Beirut and Damascus on this proposal (telegrams Nos. 2027 from Cairo, 743 from Beirut and 447 from Damascus) who are agreed that the repercussions which would be likely to result in neighbouring Arab countries from such a ban would be very unfortunate.

We hope, therefore, that you will feel able to instruct the Palestine Government not to pursue this proposal, unless they can have consider that the circulation of these newspapers in Palestine is likely to have really serious consequences, which would outweigh the considerations advanced by Cairo, Beirut and Damascus. And in that case, we would fully endorse the suggestion from Cairo that the ban should be made impartial by excluding at the same time

37 / 61963

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3 TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

a number of Jewish newspapers, (even though
this would be likely to provoke protests
from America) and the suggestion from

(Mus should white bottom)

Damascus that the ban should be limited to of
a few days. as a warning.

Coursely profund in
the following in the following in

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| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Reference:- FO | 37 | 61963

P

(Sed.) John Keith.

(E 9679/9594/31)

IMMEDIATE

FORMION OFFICE, 3. .1.

22nd October, 1947.

Dear Mathieson,

Thank you for your letter of loth october about the proposal of the Palestine Government to authorise the connor to prohibit the importation of a number of .rab newspapers published in the Lebanon. Syria and Egypt.

The Jerusalem telegram does not give a clear indication of how harmful the effects are in Falestine of the circulation of these newspapers. You will, however, now have seen the observations of our representatives in Cairo, Deirut and Damascus on this proposal (telegrams Nos. 2027 from Cairo, 743 from Beirut and 447 from Lambacus, who are agreed that the repercussions which would be likely to result in neighbouring arab countries from such a ban would be very unfortunate.

We hope, therefore, that you will feel able to instruct the Palestine Government not to pursue this proposal, unless they can show that the circulation of these newspapers in Palestine is having really serious consequences, which outweigh the considerations advanced by Cairo, cirut and Damascus. Ind in that

/case

d.A.C. Bathleson, Esq., M.B.E. Jolonial Office.

case, we would fully endorse the suggestion from Cairo that the ban should be made impartial by excluding at the same time a number of Jewish newspapers, (even though this would be likely to provoke protests from America) and the suggestion from Damascus that there should only be a token ban of a few days.

I repeat, however, that we very much hope that the ban will not be imposed, and we should very much like to be consulted again if the High Commissioner returns to the charge with fresh arguments.

(Sqd.) John Beith (J.G. J. Deith.)

Reference:-

THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



75978/47 Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)
Sent 18th October, 1947. 14,30 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 2514 Secret.

Your telegram No. 1906.

Censorship of Arab Papers.

In view of replies, repeated to you, from H. M. representatives in Arab States concerned which are being urgently considered here, grateful if you would meantime take no action to exclude Arab press from Palestine. I will telegraph further shortly.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office

- Mr. J.G.S. Beithe

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Reference:- FO 374 61963

D THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 20th October, 1947.

R. 20th 19,00 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 1959 Secret.

Addressed to the S. of S. Repeated to Cairo No. 130 (please pass copy to Bo Ma Da Oc) a

- " Beirut, No. 1445.
- " Damascus, No. 1446.

Your telegram No. 2514.

Gensorship of Arab papers.

I am quite ready to give full opportunity for representations to be made in Cairo, Damuscus and Beirut with a view to persuading the newspapers in question to moderate their tone and should be greteful if present opportunity might be taken without delay. As you are aware it is necessary to apply press censorship in Palestine but effect of this is impaired by importation of newspapers containing the censored inflammatory material. With reference to paragraph 3 of Cairo telegram No. 2027 censorship applies equally to Jew and Arab press and Jewish newspapers are prohibited every day from publishing material of this character.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office

. Mr. J.G.S. Beith.

E 9955

24 OCT

PALESTINE

TELEGRAM FROM

baus Dated

Received in Registry

2058

24 -

Generalin of arab Roungress.

Grother for response to a projected warn

(Minutes.)

ABORESSED JERUSALEM 116

Last Paper.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

9990.

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM CAIRO TO JERUSALEM

Sir R. Campbell D.8.44 a.m. 24th October, 1947.
No.116
24th October, 1947.
Repeated to Fereign Office No.2058
Beirut

IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIAL

E_9955

Censership of Arab papers.

I am grateful for your feep. It is proposed that Embassy Publicity Section should warn papers concerned through the press Syndicate but we shall first need more details of offending material. Please telegraph them urgently with any suggestions for form of warning. It will probably have best chance of success in form of message from the Palestine Government.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]
B B B B

10/1

Next Paper.

E 10208

E	E 9990
PALESTINE	27 OCT

Lessership of Crob Papers.

Refer Polyting to 1959 (c 979/9594/81)

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applied has taken seimelas action privately with

journalists.

(Minutes.)

9n-P.P. Co-tel 2572 24/10

Please see the attached copy of Colonial Office telegram No. 2572 to Palestine, which was sent as a result of our letter to the Colonial Office on E 9679/9594/31. This telegram assumes that the High Commissioner no longer considers it necessary to impose the censorship suggested and asks him to report if he should have to reconsider doing so. The position therefore appears to be held.

Meanwhile H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Beirut asks whether he is authorised to approach the Lebanese Government officially with a request that they moderate the tone of their press. I suggest that we can and submit a drafts to hum & to take this action,

(J.G.S. Beith) 30th October, 1947.

In M.P. Mirline tel 2093 Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

JB NW.12

P.10.

9.1.P. l'otine tel 2/27 11/1, H MW.17

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Rolat Bernet 678

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E 9990

[This telegram is of particular seems and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTAIBUTION.

FROM BEIRUT TO FORTIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Evans No. 777 D. 12.45 a.m. 25th October 1947 R. 2.44 p.m. 25th October 1947.

25th October 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem,
Cairo,
B.M.E.O. Cairo,
Damascus Saving.

SHORET.

Jerusalem telegram No. 1959.

Censorship of Arab papers.

I have already spoken unofficially to Lebanese Prime Minister regarding sensational and inflamatory material which has appeared in Lebanese press and have pointed out that this could only do harm to all concerned. He agreed and said that he had already urged the press to moderate its tone and would continue to do so. Information Officer has taken similar action privately with journalists. I believe that this has had some effect and that on the whole the Lebanese press is now less sensational. The Lebanese Prime Minister himself issued a statement (published in Egyptian newspaper Ahram on October 19th) which included the following passage "Arab States naturally have no fear for Arabs of Palestine as long as the British are there because they, the British, are responsible for security and peace there. The decision of the Arab League to rescue Arabs in Palestine means that Arab armies will occupy positions at present held by British once they have evacuated in order to prevent Jews from taking over".

9675/

2. If I am authorised to approach Lebanese Government officially I think they will make further efforts to moderate the tone of the press.

Caire please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram No. 207.

A A A





COLONIAL OFFICE TELEGRAM

and Selina,

Colorist Office Pateronge No. 75978/ When the complication is a fitting the of S.

Columbia Offices

75978/47

Cypher (0.T.P.)

Date 28 X 47
Heterance 8 9679/9594/31

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

Sent 24th October, 1947.

15,30 hrs.

IMPORTANT No. 2572 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner Palestine. Repeated to H.M. Ambassador Caire (please pass to B.M.E.O.).

to H.M. Minister Beirut. to H.M. Minister Damascus,

Your telegram No. 1959.

Consorship of Arab Papers.

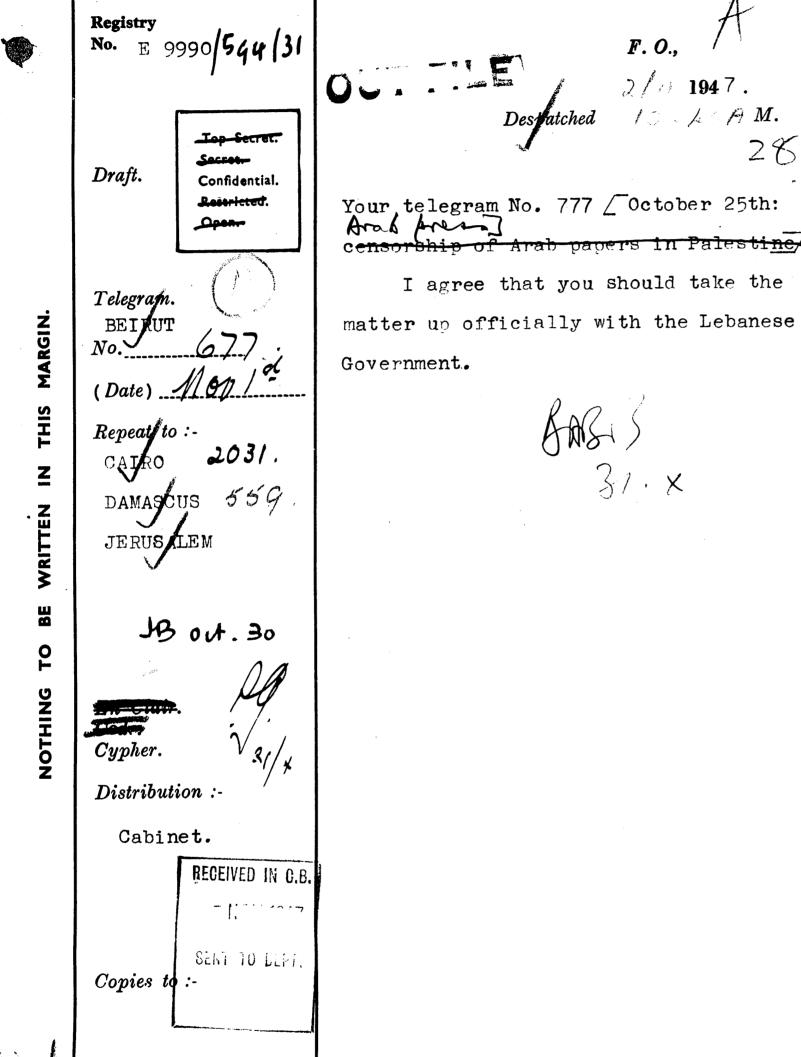
I am glad to note that you have felt able to give an opportunity for H.M. representatives concerned to make approaches to the Arab Press.

- The extreme outburst of the past two weeks may have been caused in part by the warlike resolutions passed by the Arab League and the subsequent movement of Arab troops, and, as the initial excitement dies down, Arab Pross comment may become less inflammatary.
- it necessary to reconsider imposing censorship. I should be grateful if you would keep me informed in view of the interest felt here concerning the repercussions in the Arab world. I sincerely hope however that it will not prove necessary to impose the ban, unless you are convinced that the circulation of these newspapers in Palestine is having really serious consequences which outweigh the considerations advanced by Cairo, Beirut and Damascus.

In that event, I should be grateful for your views on the Cairo suggestion that the ban should be made impartial by excluding a number of Jewish newspapers at the same time (notwithstanding possible American protests) and the Damascus proposal that there should only be a token ban of a few days.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for transmission to posts other than Jerusalem).

61963



61963

Wash

OUT

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

E 9990/594/31 CONFIDENTIAL Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT

No. 677

D. 10.40 a.m. 2nd November, 1947

1st November, 1947

Repeated to Cairo No. 2031, Damascus No. 559, Jerusalem

Your telegram No. 777 [October 25th: Arab press].

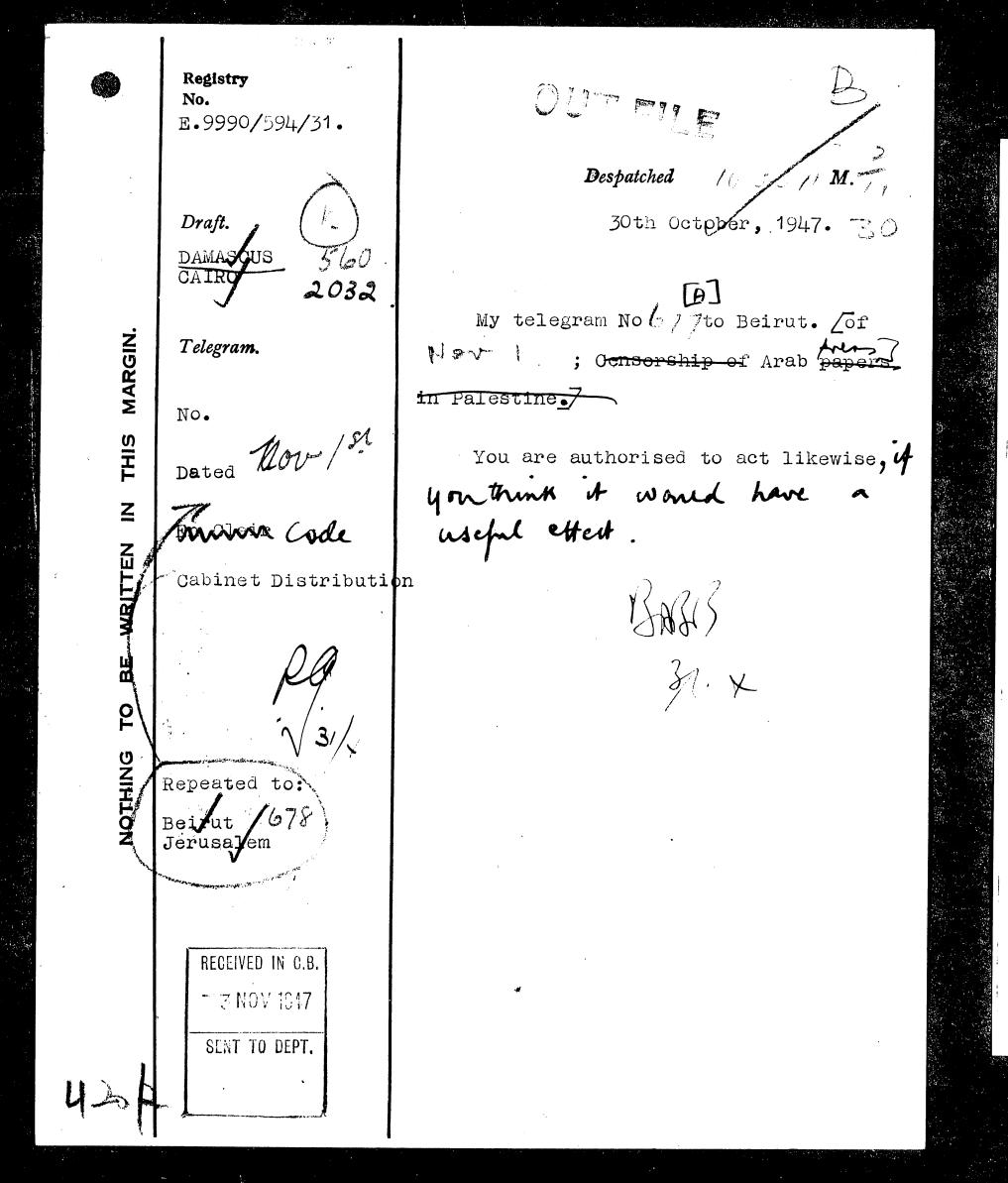
I agree that you should take the matter up officially with the Lebanese Government.

uuuu

Reference:-FO 375

274 / 61062

RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



E 9990/594/51 Code R

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO DAMASCUS No. 560

CAIRO No. 2032

1st November, 1947 D. 10.55 a.m. 2nd November, 1947 Repeated to: Beirut No. 678, Jerusalem,

My telegram No. 677 to Beirut [of November 1st:

You are authorised to act likewise, if you think it would have a useful effect.

uuuuu

RECORD OFFICE,

INWARD TELEGRAM

B

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

9990 9594 71

Cypher (O.T.P.)

547

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 7th November, 1947.
R. 7th ""

13.35 hrs.

No. 2093 Confidential.

Addressed to Charge d'Affaires
Belrut, No. 1524.
Repeated to S. of S.
Cairo, No. 136.
Damascus, No. 1526

Foreign Office telegram to you

Arab Press.

Al Shark of 6th November contains more material whose circulation in Palestine is most undesirable, e.g. page one, column four, article headed "War in Palestine is unavoidable and the Arabs and Jows prepare themselves for a battle for life in a decisive slaughter" and that on page five, columns one and two headed "Collecting arms and volunteers; Haj Amin El Husseini and Qawaqji speak on imminent Arab revolt".

Copies sent to:--

No. 677.

Foreign Office - Communications Dept.

Reference:-

777

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

9990 9594 3.1

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 11th November, 1947.

. R. 11th 20.30 hrs.

No. 2127 Confidential.

Addressed to Beirut, No. 1538. Repeated to S. of S. Cairo, No. 138. Damascus, No. 1539.

My telegram No. 1524.

Arab Press.

Al Shark of 9th November has a completely unfounded story in columns 5 and 6 of page I headed "40 killed in the town of Haifa". Unless this paper moderates its tone, I regret I shall have no alternative to excluding it from Palestine.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Beith.

10208 1917 PALESTINE benonly of lack Margagar Refus Politice til 1906 (egrqufgrauf?)
Araninch lich of articles fram of extrang and Buch
to a keek like the form of extrang and Buch
townent fines tixt of regarded warning Registry \610208/95 94/11 townd. Dated Received in Registry / // Politer 6/ 2023 3/10 Last Paper. (Minutes.) 9990 (03. £ . CAB4£) References. Note para. 4. The High Commissioner should be held by Co. td. No. 2572 in E 9990 to (Print.) refer back t honden before (How disposed of.) anjoring a bru but he Seems to have got the bit tre must awant developments. Mv. 3 (BEITH)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

10391

(Action completed.)

9n-P.P. Pairo tel 158 Sawing addressed les Copy Co. 121.

INWARD TELEGRAM

enter som

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cumingham)

D. 30th October, 1947.

R. 30th

21.20 hrs.

110208

IMPORTANT

No. 2023 Confidential.

Addressed to Cairo, No. Repeated to S. of S. No. 1198. Beirut, Demascus, No. 1499%

Your telegram No. 116.

Censorship of Arab Newspapers.

Journals concerned are those named in my telegram addressed to S. of S. No. 1906, repeated to you No. 124, Damascus No. 1388, Beirut, No. 1389. Offending material occurs both in editorials and in what purport to be items of news. It takes the form of extreme anti-British comment, wildly exaggerated reports of troop movements on borders of Palestine, predictions that a Holy War will break out in Palestine at an early date, rumours of mass enlistments in forces formed for defence of ANDD Palestine, etc. A typical example is the article in Akhban el Yom of 11th October, page 9, column 3, headed "War of Annihilation", in which Aszam Pacha is reported as saying "it will be a war of annihilation, a terrible carnage", and "I believe the number of volunteers from outside Palestine will exceed the population of Palestine herself", and "this battle will be distinguished by three important features: ~

6196

(1)

his fight for Palestine means the shortest way to paradist.

(iii) a splendid chance for looting,

(iti) nobody will be able to stop these enthusiastic (volunteers, who come from all parts of the world, from revenging Arab martyrs of Palestine, because they will consider their fight as a battle on which the eyes of every Moslem and Arab in the world are fixed."

Other instances of publication of inflammatory material the Egyptian Press could be quoted. Similar articles appear in the Press of other Arab countries; for instance, three examples from Lebanese Press are;

"Al Widal" headline, 4th October.

"Opening of recruiting offices for volumbeers in the Lebanon. Youth battalions preparing for invasion of Palestine."

"Al Shark", 2nd October.

"Tomorrow strike and thereafter war.

"If there is a strike tomorrow it will be followed the day after tomorrow by uprisings and map".

(Nowe: 3rd October was declared "Palestine day" and observed in Palestine and elsewhere by a coinciding Arab strike.)

"Al Nidal", 28th October.

"Our correspondent interviewed a leading Arab military figure who became famous during Jihad and is destined to play an important role in rescue of Palestine (*) Volunteering for rescue of Palestine is a very serious business, the Arab Youth is enthusiastic. This strong feeling makes me believe that 500,000 volunteers can be mobilised. At present there are 10,000 well trained

volumieer

Reference:-FO

TE FORLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONG

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

volunteers in Egypt, who can be put into action in 24 hours (** *) Palestine cannot attack as long as Britain is there unless the Arabs declare war on Britain. Some Arabs (correct group) such a possibility, others say boycott is least effective".

"Military Conference met in Baghdad to design plant of sharing occupation of Palestine. Famous operation blitz-krieg."

2. I suggest that warning you propose to give should take the following lines. Begins.

The Palestine Government has noted with concern inflammatory character of comment on Palestine quastion appearing in certain organs of the Press published in neighbouring Countries. At a time when the future of Palestine is under consideration by the United Mations Assembly, there is reason to expect such comments should be or an objective nature. In any event, Palestine Government cannot tolerate circulation in Polestine of newspapers containing matter calculated to sew dissension and to incite sections of the population to violence, especially as such matter is rigidly excluded from all branches of the local Press, whether published in English, Arabic or Rebrew. It is hoped, therefore, that newspapers concerned will noticeably moderate tone of their references to Polestine affairs, failing which it will be necessary for the Palentino Government to prohibit importation and circulation of such papers in Palestine. (? Ends omitted.)

- Mo Jewish newspapers are excluded, but some Jewish publication such as Bergeon group of papers are banned and any Jovish newspaper containing passages similar to those quoted would be excluded.
- 4. Tope of Areb newspapers concerned has worsened rather than improved since my proposal to exclude them was first made. Unless improvement is noticeable at an early date I shall have no alternative but to exclude.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Beith

INWARD TELEGRAM

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TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES*

AMENDED COPY (corrections / underlined on 3rd page.)

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 30th October, 1947.

R. 30th " 21.20 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 2023 Confidential.

Addressed to Cairo, No. 134.

Repeated to S. of S.

Beirut, No. 1498.

Damascus, No. 1499.

Your telegram No. 116.

Censorship of Arab Newspapers.

Journals concorned are those named in my telegram addressed to S. of S. No. 1906, repeated to you No. 124, Damascus No. 1388, Beirut, No. 1389. Offending material occurs both in editorials and in what purport to be items of news. It takes the form of extreme anti-British comment, wildly exaggérated reports of troop movements on borders of Palestine, predictions that a Holy War will break out in Palestine at an early date, rumours of mass enlistments in forces formed for defence of Arab Palestine, etc. A typical example is the article in Akhbar el Yom of lith October, page 9, column 3, headed "War of Annihilation", in which Azzam Pasha is reported as saying "it will be a war of annihilation, a terrible carnage", and "I believe the number of volunteers from outside Palestine will exceed the population of Palestine herself", and "this battle will be distinguished by three important feetures;-

(i)

- (ii) a splendid chance for looting,
- (iii) nobody will be able to stop these enthusiastic volunteers, who come from all parts of the world, from revenging Arab martyrs of Palestine, because they will consider their fight as a battle on which the eyes of every Moslem and Arab in the world are fixed."

Other instances of publication of inflammatory material in the Egyptian Press could be quoted. Similar articles appear in the Press of other Arab countries; for instance, three examples from Lebanese Press are;

"Al Nidal" headline, 4th October.

"Opening of recruiting offices for volunteers in the Lebanon. Youth battalions preparing for invasion of Palestine."

"Al Shark", 2nd October.

"Tomorrow strike and thereafter war.

"If there is a strike tomorrow it will be followed the day after tomorrow by uprisings and war".

(Note: 3rd October was declared "Palestine day" and observed in Palestine and elsewhere by a coinciding Arab strike.)

"Al Nidal", 28th October.

"Our correspondent interviewed a leading Arab military figure who became famous during Jihad and is destined to play an important role in rescue of Palestine (*) Volunteering for rescue of Palestine is a very serious business, the Arab Youth is enthusiastic. This strong feeling makes me believe that 500,000 volunteers can be mobilised. At present there are 10,000 well trained

volunteers

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

volunteers in Egypt, who can be put into action in 24 hours (* * *) Palestine cannot attack as long as Britain is there unless the Arabs declare war on Britain. Some Arabs / contemplate such a possibility, others say boycott is / more effective".

"Military Conference met in Baghdad to design # plans for sharing occupation of Palestine # based on famous operation Blitz-krieg."

2. I suggest that warning you propose to give should take the following lines. Begins.

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- J. No Jewish newspapers are excluded, but some Jewish publication such as Rergson group of papers are banned and any Jewish newspaper containing passages similar to those quoted would be excluded.
- the fone of Arab newspapers concerned has worsened rather then improved since my proposal to exclude them was first made. Unless improvement is noticeable at an early date I shall have no alternative but to exclude.

 | Corrections received 31st October.

Copy sent to:-

- Mr. Beith

Foreign Office

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM CAIRO TO JERUSALEM

MUESEP

Dir R. Campbell No.121

8th November, 1947

R: 12th November, 1947

Repeated to: Foreign Office No. 158 Saving No. 81 No. 87 Damascus

Beirut

Your telegram No. 134 paragraph 2.

waining in terms suggested has been conveyed to Egyptian newspaper editors. I do not consider that effect of warning would in any way be anhanced by official approach to Egyptian Government which I was authorised to make at my discretion in Foreign Office telegram No. 560 to Damascus.

GGGG

TELEGRAM FROM No.Dated Received in Registry 10208 (Print.) (How disposed of.) VIIm

[94] PALESTINE Registry \(\mathbe{E} \) | 0391/9594/3 W Nundas Damareul 491. 4,11cv Last Paper. References.

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Lensonkin of Eval Papers.

African PM on same lines, the death the point well out appeared to agree.

(Minutes.)

ABMV. 6

(Action completed.) (Index.) Next Paper.

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Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Dundas.

D. 12.50 p.m. 5th November 1947.

4th November 1947. R. 3.20 p.m. 5th November 1947.

Repeated to: Beirut,
Jerusalem

B.M. E.O. Cairo.

My telegram No.425[sic].

Censorship of Arab papers.

I have now spoken to Syrian Prime Minister on the same lines. He took the point well and appeared to agree.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

W:W:W:W:W



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	PALESTINE	1 3 NOV 44
Registry Number EIOMY0/9574/31. TELEGRAM FROM No. Revall Dated Received in Registry & Sold. Y Mount Y Mount S -	Libertie PM on line of the correct and paid that functor effect to incolora west or regard sides, to	signess. signesses that you of other Leveralen tel 2023. Re would inghe a le sone of belonere Said he would inah term of herdent who was receptive.
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Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

4

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE NOV

Mr. Evans.

D. 1.28. p.m. 7th November 1947.

7th November 1947.

R. 2.20. p.m. 7th November 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem,
Cairo,
Damascus, Saving.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 677.

Censorship of Arabic newspapers.

I have spoken to Lebanese Prime Minister on the lines of paragraph 2 of Jerusalem telegram No. 134 to Cairo (repeated to Colonial Office 2,023). He agreed and said that he would make a further effort to moderate the tone of the Lebanese press. As regards Nidal (paragraph 1 of Jerusalem telegram) he said he would "wash the editor's head" and in my presence gave orders for him to be summoned to his office.

2. I have also spoken in similar terms to the Lebanese President who was also receptive.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference:- FO 371 61963

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(Index.) (Action completed.) Next Paper.

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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DEPARTMENTAL NO.1 47 END

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr Evans No. 826

Cypher/OTP

D. 6. 19 p.m. 15th November, 1947.

15th-November, 1947. R. 7. 22 p.m. 15th November, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem Cairo Damascus Saving

CONFIDENTIAL

Jerusalem telegram No. 1538 (repeated to Colonial Office 2127).

Censorship of Arab Press. Al Shark issued a démenti on 14th November.

- 2. Beirut editors have been warned both by Lebanese and by the Information Officer of this Legation and there has been a considerable improvement in the general tone of the press as a whole, though individual newspapers continue to offend at intervals.
- I appreciate that if further inflammatory material is published the High Commissioner of Palestine will have no alternative to excluding the offending paper but I hope that in the first instance only a token ban of a few days will be imposed.

2 2 2